

# OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Ambassador HONG KONG

DATE: Aug 25, 1964

FROM: Department of State (PER/COMP)

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL: Education Allowance

REF: Consulate General's OM, July 14, 1964

The Department has carefully considered the proposal under reference that the education allowance cover costs of attending the British Military Dependents Schools. We do not believe that a change in the rates for this purpose can be fully justified in view of the general availability of and the majority usage in the past of the public schools. It appears that curriculum problems will be essentially the same whether children attend public, military or private schools, and crowding appears to be a feature of most or all of the schools. The military schools may offer some advantage in more stable staff and perhaps less crowding, but this of itself would not warrant and support the large allowance increases requested.

As our OM of August 19, 1963 indicated we were willing to increase the rates based on a private school base, and the Department did provide some increases based on previous private school cost data available in the Department. Realizing that this was probably out of date, we asked for more current information for private schools upon which to base possible further increase in the rates in recognition of the enrollment problem with the public school system and the considerably higher costs of the British military schools.

While we appreciate from the narrative in the Post Report of July 1, 1964 that private schools may have more limited usefulness for foreign children than at one time, we would nevertheless like to have cost data for a sampling of those which do enroll a significant group of foreign children. We are also interested in what schools are being used by other members of the English speaking colony for their children, if this sort of information is readily available.

If the Consulate General will undertake to furnish the additional information requested, we will consider further what increase in allowances may be warranted.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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